

Minutes for the Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee Meeting of September 8, 2008

Board members present were Stephan Miller, Ron Sender, Christopher Tonkin, Ted Packard, Jeff Roth, and Scott Smith. Phil Goff, Laurel Carpenter, Roly Chaput, Doug Greenfield, and Joey Glushko were also present.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30.

*The minutes from the August meeting were approved with two corrections.

Final Discussion on planning for ABAC's Town Day booth in September; review map of Arlington bicycle routes by Doug Greenfield. Ted will deliver our Town Day booth materials to the site. Most of us will take the same shifts that we had last year. We discussed the logistics of setting up and taking down the banner and table. Doug showed us the latest version of his Arlington Bike Map. We will distribute copies of the map at our Town Day table. We discussed which roads to mark as bike friendly and whether we should use the Town Seal and/or the ABAC Seal. Joey suggested that the town borders be delineated in a darker line. Doug will send out the final version via email. After our final approval, Joey will reproduce the map for us.

Updates on Minuteman Bikeway Multi-Community Celebration (for Hall of Fame honor), scheduled for Sunday afternoon, October 5. Joey has sent out requests for donations to sixty businesses located in the Town. We have heard from two. Joey is also asking for volunteers to man the phones for a follow-up pitch. The bookmarks that we are giving out at the event have been printed. We are also having banners made advertising the festivities. The officials we have invited have all accepted. We viewed the signs that will be placed along the bikeway. Stephan and Christopher volunteered to provide refreshments for the Arlington reception. The Arlington event will take place at the Jefferson Cutter House, which will be open from noon to 4:00 pm.

Update on MPAC bike-rack program. Joey told us of a request for a bike-rack on the corner of Mass. Ave. and Library Way. There is room for two inverted U's. The Town Engineer has given his okay for a rack at this location. We discussed the location of the current rack at the Library and whether moving it would create greater utility. We talked about locations for racks on Broadway Plaza as well as near the Capitol Theater. Another requested spot is near the Gibbs school/Arlington Center for the Arts. We will make a prioritized list of locations at the next meeting.

General discussion of possible wide-shoulder striping and bike lanes on various streets in Arlington such as Mass. Ave. and Lake Street. Jeff pointed out that there are no bike lanes in Arlington. We discussed Lake Street and the western end of Mass. Ave. Ron complained about the condition of the pavement along

most of Mass. Ave. Scott told us that the TAC is recommending an 11 foot travel lane with a 4 ft. shoulder on Lake Street. The width of this road does not permit full bike lanes. We discussed the nature of the fog lines on Summer Street and whether we think that they are conducive to safe bicycling. Jeff Roth and Paolo Marinelli measured the width of Mass Ave in the Heights. Once again we discussed the merits of wide shoulders vs. bike lanes on that part of the road. Phil asked about possible bike lanes along the Mystic Valley Parkway and was told that the Town has no jurisdiction over that road.

Review Arlington Board of Selectmen memo written to Lexington in support of Minuteman Trail plowing. The Selectmen sent a letter to the Lexington Selectmen about the trial plowing of the bike path last winter. The letter was very favorable about the impact of the plowing on the Town. They asked that Lexington consider plowing their section of the path.

Discuss creation of a connector path between the Minuteman and the Arlington Reservoir paths (Ted Packard). We discussed possible routes and treatments for a possible path connecting the Minuteman and Reservoir paths.

Brief review of current status of Safe Routes to School program in Arlington. We discussed the Arlington schools policy against elementary students riding their bicycle to school. Scott would like to see the installation of bike-racks at the schools but with disclaimers about responsibility for the security of the bicycles parked at them.

Review future events, including upcoming ABAC meeting dates. Laurel told us about a bike skills (commuter) course being given in Lexington by MassBike. Phil told us about a design charrette for the Mass Ave corridor project. We want to push for bike lanes on that section of the road. Phil is starting an East Arlington transportation advocacy organization. He also told us about some of the traffic issues that concern East Arlington.

*The meeting was adjourned at 9:33.

*Denotes a vote was taken.

Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller.